THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Consequent upon the decanalisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC and MMTC, Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient and re-structure these Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment.

Countries not Accepting Dunkel Proposals

1919. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries which have not accepted the Dunkel proposals ;

(b) what will be India's policy while dealing in trade with these countries ;

(c) whether India will enter into bilateral negotiations with these countries ; and

(d) what adverse effect will be in Indian trade by virtue of these countries not accepting the Dunkel proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) All 117 countries which participated in the Uruguay Round of negotiations joined the consensus on the results of the negotiations on December 15, 1993.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

@ 1920. [*Transferred to 15th March*, 1994]

U.S. shuns child manufactured goods

1921. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE :
SHRI RAJANI RANJAN SAHU :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news reports in the Times of India of January 8, 1994, captioned "U.S. shuns child labour goods" stating that Labour Attaches in the American Embassies the World over have started drawing up list of articles manufactured by industries employing Child Labour, with a view to barring import thereof into the U.S. ;

(b) whether similar restrictions are also being imposed on child manufactured goods by other countries, if so, the details in this regard ; and

(c) the steps taken so far by Government to eliminate the use of child labour in different hazardous industries.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Two bills seeking to prohibit imports into the US of products made wholly or in part with child labour are at present with the US Congress. There is a proposal under consideration in the European Commission to adopt a Resolution linking GSP benefits with social issues like child labour.

(c) Projects have been drawn up under the National Child Labour Policy 1987 for protecting children from employment especially in hazardous industries like glass, carpet, brass, slate etc. Other measures include inter-alia the improvement in enforcement of our laws and voluntary action by the industry to reduce child labour.

Effect of Dunkel Proposals of Job Opportunities

1922. SHRI SOM PAL :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
DR. JITENDRA KUMAR JAIN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that as per view expressed by him at a recent press conference at Patna as reported in the Indian Express of 7th February, 1944 that the acceptance of Dunkel Proposal by Government would drastically reduce job opportunities in the organised sector :

(b) if so, the manner in which Government propose of deal with the already acute problem of unemployment in the country ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the small scale sector, which could offer more

job opportunities, has not been liberalised so far ;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for not liberalising the small sector and the agro-based industries including sugar and milk processing industries ;

(e) whether Government propose to continue with the same policy ;

(f) if so, what is the rationale thereof ; and

(g) if not, what changes are being contemplated and by when these are likely to be brought about ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The anticipated increase in World trade, income and employment as a result of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations is also likely to enhance employment opportunities in India. The access which would become available to the services markets of our trading partners would also benefit us.

(c) to (g) The small scale sector has been progressively liberalised. With the adoption of the new policy in August 1991, licensing and other restrictions in the small scale sector have been reduced drastically. Employment in the small scale sector has continued to increase from 125.3 lakhs in 1991 to 134 lakhs in 1992-93.

Resisting Changes in Patent Law

1923. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would be able to resist changes in the patent laws as required under GATT accord ;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) whether our biggest trading partners EC, USA and Japan would compel us to change patent law ;

(d) what kind of changes are likely to occur if amendments have to be undertaken ; and

(e) what is the expected rise in our exports, foreign earnings, and GDP growth due to GATT accord in 1995 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d) Negotiations on the Uruguay Round agreements including on intellectual property rights, have been concluded in December, 1993. All 117th negotiating countries including India have joined the consensus in respect of the results of Negotiations. After completion of ratification procedures by the member countries, all members are enjoined to bring their laws and regulations in conformity with their obligations. Changes to the patent law would involve scope of patent, term of patent and compulsory licensing etc.

(e) There are different estimates of the likely trade and income effects of the Uruguay Round. A conservative estimate of increase in world trade by 240 billion dollars has been made by the OECD. Even on the assumptions that India's share of world trade remains constant, India's increase in exports could be in the range of 1.2 to 2 billion dollars.

Seeds under Patent Law

1924. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI ANATRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE :
SHRI G.G. SWELL :
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the seeds for agricultural production used in India which are under patent